

TABLE 2

Date	Age in weeks	Weight in kg.
1	2	3
19.v.1977	Birth	0.120
26.v.1977	1	0.182
2.vi.1977	2	0.232
9.vi.1977	3	0.294
16.vi.1977	4	0.385
23.vi.1977	5	0.430
30.vi.1977	6	0.570
7.vii.1977	7	0.695
14.vii.1977	8	0.845
21.vii.1977	9	0.945
28.vii.1977	10	1.073
4.viii.1977	11	1.156

VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEON,  
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,  
P. O. BARANG, DIST. CUTTACK.

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December 16, 1978.

The canines of two kittens under observation appeared at the age of four weeks. Weekly growth records of one female kitten born here on 19.5.1977 was maintained upto the age of 11 weeks and the details of the same are given in the Table 2.

Prater (1971) states that the young of this species have been obtained in March and May and 3 to 4 kittens may be born in a litter. In India, this species mates in May and has 3 to 4 young per litter after a gestation period of 56 days (Asdell 1964).

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#### REFERENCES

ASDELL, S. A. (1964): Patterns of Mammalian Reproduction. Second Edition, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, pp. 490.

PRATER, S. H. (1971): The Book of Indian Animals. Third (Revised) Edition, Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay, pp. 73-74.

#### 4. DO LEOPARDS USE THEIR WHISKERS AS WIND DETECTOR?

I had an opportunity to witness a peculiar behaviour of a big male Leopard in the hilly tract of Udaipur.

My father and we three brothers were sitting on a hillock and admiring four sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) does and two grown up fawns grazing peacefully in a clearing on the face of a hill about 200 yards from us. Between us and the sambar, there was a belt of scrub jungle and beyond there was dense jungle. They were on a higher ground from us. We were engrossed in watching when sud-

denly my elder brother caught sight of a leopard in a depression, between us and the hinds about 80 yards from us, stalking them. A good breeze started from our direction towards the hinds. When the leopard was about 70 yards from them and almost level with us the does became uneasy. He crouched there for about five minutes occasionally raising and slightly turning his head sideways, his whiskers taut and relaxed alternately, which I could see clearly with the help of binoculars. Then the leopard turned and retreated for about 30

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

yards towards our right side and disappeared, reappearing again over the bank of a dry nullah and started stalking over a comparatively barren ground. Soon he was detected by a hind, she advanced two or three steps towards the leopard followed by two other hinds, gave a loud bell and all of them dashed into the dense jungle. The leopard rose from his posi-

tion took two steps, raised his tail, gave a woogh call and went off.

From this incidence I inferred that these big cats know the importance of wind and use their whiskers as a tool to detect wind direction.

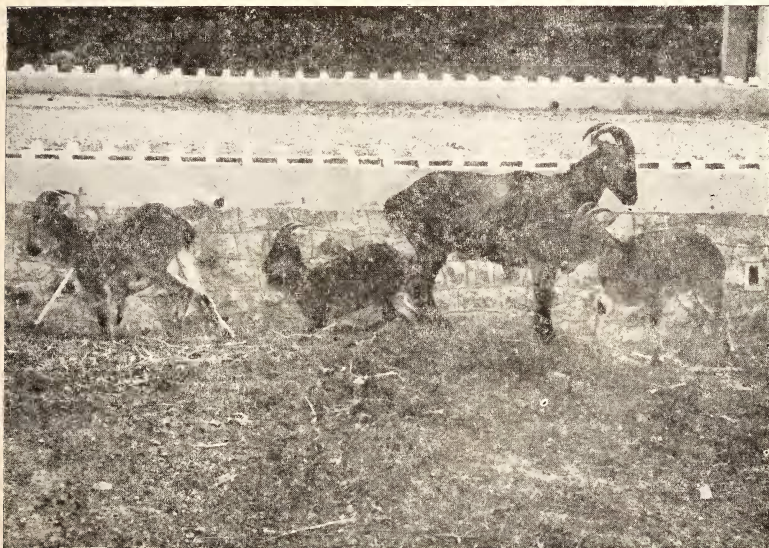
I would therefore be grateful if some naturalist throws more light on the matter.

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41 PANCHWATI,  
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June 25, 1979.

#### 5. NILGIRI TAHR (*HEMITRAGUS HYLOCRIUS*) IN CAPTIVITY

(With a photograph)



Nilgiri Tahr at Trivandrum Zoo.